The provisions of payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 were earlier extended to all employees of NVS (including teachers). However, pursuant to the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court holding that teachers were not covered by the definition of employees under Section 2 (e) of the payment of Gratuity Act. 1972. release of gratuity to the teachers was kept in abeyance.

Fees in private professional colleges

194. SHRI T.T.V. DH1NAKARAN: Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private professional colleges charge more fees than the fees fixed;

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by the AICTE, they have no specific details in this regard. On receipt of such information through the reports of the Visiting Expert Committees and other means, the Council take appropriate action, including withdrawal of approval against such defaulting institutions.

Poor attendance of teachers in rural areas

†195. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in most of the primary schools, particularly in rural areas in the country, the teachers either do not attend schools or they attend the schools just for formality;

(b) if so, the action to be taken by Government to tackle the situation;

(c) whether Government would prepare a countrywide list of social workers who are ready to render their voluntary services in the education sector:

(d) if so, by when the efforts would be made in this direction; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (b) The Government of India conducted an independent study in 2006-07 which has revealed an average national teacher attendance rate of 80%. On the basis. GOI has advised States to monitor teacher attendance in elementary schools and put in place mechanisms to 'improve teacher presence and accountablity.

(c) to (e) There is no such proposal under consideration of GOI.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi